

Annual Burden: 2,500.

Title: "Supplemental Information for PLP/SBA, Express Processing".

Type of Request: New Collection.

Form No: SBA Form 2093.

Description of Respondents: SBA Express Lenders.

Annual Responses: 10,000.

Annual Burden: 2,500.

Comments: Send all comments regarding these information collections to, Charles Thomas, Financial Analyst, Pilot Operations Branch, Office of Financial Assistance, Small Business Administration, 409 3rd Street SW, Suite 8300, Washington, DC 20416. Phone No.: 202-205-6656.

Send comments regarding whether these information collections are necessary for the proper performance of the function of the agency, accuracy of burden estimate, in addition to ways to minimize these estimates, and ways to enhance the quality.

Jacqueline K. White,

Chief, Administrative Information Branch.

[FR Doc. 98-32761 Filed 12-9-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 8025-01-P

SMALL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION

[Declaration of Disaster #3146]

State of Kansas; Amendment #3

In accordance with information received from the Federal Emergency Management Agency, the above-numbered Declaration is hereby amended to include the Counties of Johnson, Leavenworth, Marion, and Wyandotte in the State of Kansas as a disaster area due to damages caused by severe storms and flooding beginning on October 30, 1998 and continuing through November 15, 1998.

In addition, applications for economic injury loans from small businesses located in the following contiguous counties may be filed until the specified date at the previously designated location: Atchison, Dickinson, and Saline Counties in the State of Kansas, and Cass, Clay, Jackson, and Platte Counties in the State of Missouri. Any counties contiguous to the above-named primary counties and not listed herein have been previously declared.

The number for economic injury in the State of Missouri is 9A5800.

All other information remains the same, i.e., the deadline for filing applications for physical damage is January 4, 1999 and for economic injury the termination date is August 5, 1999.

(Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance Program Nos. 59002 and 59008)

Dated: December 2, 1998.

Bernard Kulik,

Associate Administrator for Disaster Assistance.

[FR Doc. 98-32760 Filed 12-9-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 8025-01-P

OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES TRADE REPRESENTATIVE

World Trade Organization (WTO)

AGENCY: Office of the United States Trade Representative.

ACTION: Solicitation of Public Comment Regarding U.S. Preparations for Multilateral Negotiations on Government Procurement Issues.

SUMMARY: The Trade Policy Staff Committee (TPSC) is providing notice of the U.S. intention to develop proposals and positions related to negotiations on government procurement issues under the auspices of the World Trade Organization (WTO). The Committee of Participants of the WTO Government Procurement Agreement (GPA) are engaged in negotiations on the potential improvement of that Agreement, as provided for in Article XXIV.7(b) of that Agreement. The current text of the GPA is available on the WTO world wide web site, at www.wto.org/wto/govt/agreem.htm. Currently, there are 26 participants in the GPA (see the supplementary information, below).

As previously noted in section IV of the TPSC's August 19, 1998 notice of preparations for the third Ministerial Conference of the WTO (**Federal Register**, Volume 63, number 160, pages 44500-44502), the TPSC is also developing proposals and positions related to WTO consultations and negotiations on transparency in government procurement under the ongoing WTO work program agreed at the December 1996 WTO Ministerial Conference in Singapore.

The TPSC invites public comment regarding the development of the agenda, scope, content and timetables for these negotiations. The Administration seeks views on the broadest possible range of issues for consideration, including the content of international rules relating to government procurement and specific U.S. market access interests. The deadline for written comments is Friday, January 15, 1999.

Decisions on the potential improvement of the GPA will be based on consensus among the 26 participants to the Agreement. Decisions related to the development of a potential WTO Agreement on Transparency in

Government Procurement will be based on consensus among WTO Members. This solicitation is intended to facilitate the Administration's preparation of U.S. proposals and positions for these negotiations, and acceptance of such proposals by participants.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: For procedural questions on the provision of public comments, contact Gloria Blue, Executive Secretary, Trade Policy Staff Committee, Office of the United States Trade Representative, (202) 395-3475. For questions relating to the substance of WTO negotiations on transparency in government procurement or of negotiations on the improvement of the GPA, contact John Ellis, Director for Government Procurement, at 202/395-3063.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. The WTO Working Group on Transparency in Government Procurement

At the December 1996 WTO Ministerial Conference in Singapore, WTO members agreed to "establish a working group to conduct a study on transparency in government procurement practices, taking into account national policies, and, based on this study, to develop elements for inclusion in an appropriate agreement." Taking into account the significant progress that has been made to date in the study phase of the Working Group's mandate, the trade ministers of the United States, the European Union, Japan, and Canada have called for the conclusion of a WTO agreement on transparency in government by the time of the Third WTO Ministerial Conference, scheduled for late 1999 in the United States.

II. The WTO Government Procurement Agreement (GPA)

The GPA, which entered into force on January 1, 1996, is a "plurilateral" agreement included in Annex 4 to the WTO Agreement. As such, it is not part of the WTO "single undertaking" and its Membership is limited to WTO Members that specifically signed it in Marrakesh or that subsequently accede to it. The GPA's current Membership include the United States, the member states of the European Union (Austria, Belgium, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Ireland, Italy, Liechtenstein, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Portugal, Spain, Sweden, United Kingdom), the Kingdom of the Netherlands with respect to Aruba, Canada, Hong Kong China, Israel, Japan, the Republic of Korea, Norway, Singapore, and Switzerland. Iceland,